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440

The reformation of Luther - the deformation of Hitler, 1933.

395

THE REFORMATION OF LUTHER -- THE DEFORMATION OF HITLER

The Struggle Within the Christian Church of Germany 450 Years
After Luther and Its significance for the Jew

By

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver

at

The Temple

on .

Sunday morning, December 10, 1933.

Protestant Christianity this year celebrated the four hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birthday of Martin Luther, the Father of the Reformation, and this occasion is significant, of course, for Protestantism the world over. A serious rift has developed in the ranks of the Evangelical Church in Germany which is of utmost significance for our people.

Luther's Reformation more than four centuries ago was significant to our people only indirectly. Neither in the teachings of Protestantism nor in Luther's records do we find any attitude more favorable to Judaism than to Catholicism. Germany, which was the cradle of the Reformation has also been the hotbed of anti-Semitism. The Jewish people derived direct benefit from the Reformation. The Reformation destroyed the imperialism of the Catholic Church. It divided Christianity in twain. The two sections carried on a very bloody struggle, each trying to destroy the other. The bloody Thirty Years War was an effort on the part of Catholicism and Protestantism to annihilate one other. After decades of conflict, they discovered that they could not achieve their objectives so they were forced to compromise. The necessity of the situation forced the principle of toleration upon them. You will remember that immediately after the Reformation a number of sects sprang up within Protestantism and waged war upon each other. After a long period of bitter struggle, they discovered

that they could not wipe each other out and must live together. So the principle of toleration was still further strengthened in Europe. The Jew was distinctly to benefit from the spread of the principle of toleration.

If the religious groups have a right to worship God as they please, why should not the Jews worship their God as it pleases? That principle, applicable to the Jews, was long in getting itself established in Europe, but finally it did.

The attitude of Luther himself toward the Jews is of course well known. It was similar to the attitude which Mohammed took toward the Jew. Mohammed became a friend of the Jewish people. He borrowed many teachings from the Bible, rabbis and teachers. He hoped that the Jews would come over to him and accept his teachings. When he discovered that the Jews would remain true to their own teachings he became their vigorous enemy.

In 1523, just a few years after Luther published his famous "Ninety-Five Questions" he wrote that Jesus Christ was born a Jew. He says, "They are blood-relations of the Lord; therefore, if it were proper to boast of flesh and blood, the Jews belong to Christ more than we." He denounced the treatment of the Jews at the hand of Christianity and asked for the spirit of brotherliness in Christianity. He hoped thereby to win over the Jews to his cause and persuade them to adopt Protestant Christianity. But he

realized that the Jewish people would not. And he, like Mohammed, became a very bitter and implacable enemy of the Jews.

In 1543 he wrote two treatises, one "Regarding Shem Hamphoras" and the other "Concerning the Jews and their lies." The treatises were so coarse in tone that the Swiss Reformer Bullinger, declared that "They must have been written by a swineherd instead of by a famous shepherd of souls."

Luther recommended the persecution and suppression of the Jews. He congratulated Charles V on the Jewish expulsion from Spain. He approved their expulsion from Bohemia. He reviled the Jews their religion. He says that the "Jews are a pernicious race, oppressing all men by their usury and rapine. We must ever keep on our guard against them. They think to render homage to God by injuring the Christians, and yet we employ their physicians; 'tis a tempting of God. Truly, they hate us Christians as they do death; it galls them to see us."

Of course there is the possibility of over-estimating the degree of villainy in Luther's comments, but he spoke just as harshly of all his opponents. It was an age in which people spoke without restraint, with heat and with harshness.

Luther was a strong, determined and courageous man. He had real elements of greatness in him. He was a man without fear and a man who could not be moved from his steadfastness to his convictions once they became clear in his mind. He dared to defy authority. But

he was a man without kindness, compassion and sympathy which belong to a religion of love which he champions so fearlessly and aggressively. He calls Erasmus, the greatest humanist of that age, "the vilest miscreant that ever disgraced the earth, an accursed wretch." He said "Whenever I pray, I pray for a curse upon Erasmus." That is the way they talked in those days. He called the Pope "anti-Christ," "a reprobate villain," and "an infernal dog." He called him "a pick-lock and cheat," "God's ape." These and sundry other adjectives are scattered through his writings. He spoke of popes, cardinals and bishops as a "pack of guzzling, stuffing wretches, rich, wallowing in wealth and laziness." He described the apapists as "for the most part mere gross block-heads." He called for "an everlasting war" upon the papists. He had visions of washing his hands in their blood. He said, "I wish I could breathe our lightning against pope and popedom, and that every word were a thunderbolt."

Luther came from peasant stock, from a crude environment. His temper was violent. His speech was hot and frequently coarse and unbridled. There was in him a good deal of that assertiveness, crudeness and cruelty which is frequently found in the makeup of the Modern Teuton.

When the poor peasants of Germany were living under Feudalism and rose up in rebellion against their lords and masters, Luther denounced them. He said, "God has forbidden insurrection." "No insurrection is ever right, no matter how good the cause in whose

interest it is made." When these peasants, in spite of Luther's advice and consent continued their insurrection against the lords, Luther advised the princes to massacre them without trial and mercy. But when the princes rebelled against the Emperor, he defended them and sanctioned their right to rebellion.

Luther's chief contribution to Christian Theology lies in this: that he substituted for the dogma of the Infallible Church, speaking with divine authority through the Head on earth, the pope -- Luther substituted the dogma of the Infallible Word of God as revealed in the sacred scriptures or the New Testament. In other words he made central in Christian thought, the Bible, instead of the church, the Book instead of the pope or the church.

Luther denied the authority of the pope, denied the authority of Church Councils. What authority is there therefore in Christian life? Luther's reply was the Bible, the revealed word of God. The Bible therefore is the patriarch of Protestant Christianity in a much profounder sense than Catholicism or even Judaism. Both Catholicism and Judaism have a preliminary tradition. The Jews had the teachings of the rabbis which possess authority in Jewish life. The Catholics had authoritative interpretations of the Bible. Luther denied the authority of the church. Protestantism had no supplementary tradition. Without the Bible historic Protestantism is a religion left hanging in the air.

Luther, in an effort to make the Bible supreme authority in Christianity, proceeded to translate the Bible in German in order

to make it accessible to all the people. Of the Bible, Luther says that "the Bible is God's word and book and I prove thus: All things that have been, and are, in the world, and the manner of their being, are described in the first book of Moses on the creation; even as God made and shaped the world, so does it stand to this day. Infinite potentates have raged against this book, and sought to destroy and uproot it -- king Alexander the Great, the princes of Egypt and of Babylon, the monarchs of Persia, of Greece, and of Rome, the emperors Julius and Augustus -- but they nothing prevailed; they are all gone and vanished, while the book remains, and will remain for ever and ever, perfect and entire, as it was declared at first. Who has thus helped it -- who has thus protected it against such mighty forces? No one, surely, but God himself, who is the master of all things. And 'tis no small miracle how God has so long preserved and protected this book; for the devil and the world are sore foes to it. I believe that the devil has destroyed many good books of the church, as aforetime, he killed and crushed many holy persons, the memory of whom has now passed away; but the Bible he was fain to leave subsisting. Homer, Virgil, and other noble, fine and profitable writers, have left us books of great antiquity, but they are naught to the Bible."

"While the Romish church stood, the Bible was never given to the people in such a shape that they could clearly, understandingly, surely, and easily read it, as they now can in the German translation,

which, thank God, we have prepared here at Wittenberg."

"The Holy Scriptures are full of divine gifts and virtues. The books of the heathen taught nothing of faith, hope, or charity; they present no idea of these things; they contemplate only the present, and that which man, with the use of his material reason, can grasp and comprehend. Look not therein for aught of hope or trust in God. But see how the Psalms and the Book of Job treat of faith, hope, resignation, and prayer; in a word, the Holy Scripture is the highest and best of books, abounding in comfort under all afflictions and trials. It teaches us to see, to feel, to grasp, and to comprehend faith, hope, and charity, far otherwise than mere human reason can; and when evil oppresses us, it teaches how these virtues throw light upon the darkness, and how, after this poor miserable existence of ours on earth, there is another and eternal life."

As a result of the emphasis which the Reformation placed upon the Bible, the study of the Bible became the chief concern of Protestantism. The elucidation and explanation of the Bible became the chief concern of all the Christian reformers of the 16th century, Melancthon, Calvin, Zwingli and others. In fact a movement which was known as Humanism or the New Learning, as far as Germany was concerned, largely expressed itself at first in the critical study of the Bible. With the study of the Bible came the study of the Hebrew language in order to understand

more accurately the original text of the Bible.

Now, bearing all this in mind, one can readily understand the terrific wrench in the Protestant church which a movement aimed at the elimination of the Bible would cause. And such a movement actually made its appearance in Germany with the advent of Hitler. This movement is but another expression of the neo-Germanism and anti-Semitism which has dominated the Nazi movement since its inception. It is opposed to the Bible because it is the work of Jews, because it is the history of the Jewish people and because it is the moral code of the Jewish people. It is particularly opposed to the Old Testament because the Old Testament is not only the work of the Jews, but the work of Jews who have not even accepted Christian Theology. This movement in present day Germany aims at eliminating the Old Testament from the Christian church and to revise the New Testament. The Nazis are not pleased with the New Testament for many reasons. The leader, the central figure is not at all in keeping with the ideal hero which they have set up for themselves. Jesus, the peace-loving, the "Lamb of God", the patient, the non-resisting, -- that is the sort of person they send to Concentration Camps in Germany. They want a God to worship, a God in a steel helmet, a God of War.

Adolph Rosenberg, one of the leaders of the Nazis today is sceptical of the whole of Christianity. He says: "It is the product of a moribund civilization of weary Mediterraneans."

Herr Pittchottka, divisional leader of the Nazi Church movement declared: "The Jewish and the Germanic conceptions of God are sharply at variance. The Old Testament advocates a flatly utilitarian philosophy which has nothing in common with the highly moral conception of Germanism."

"Instead of the stories of the patriarchs, which, after all, are merely the folk lore of a people bent upon profit and business, the German fairy tales and sagas must be brought home to the German youth. From them deep religious thoughts may be drawn..."

"Luther was unable to complete his work of freeing the Germanic spirit from the fetters of a Jewish-Roman church. It is the task of our generation to complete this great work."

Another spokesman, Dr. Rheinhold Krause, leader of the Berlin German Christians declared: "The Old Testament must be eliminated altogether, the New Testament should be abridged and Ghetto churches must be established for non-Aryan Christians."

In other words a Jew accepts Christianity but he should not be admitted into the Christian fold. A special ghetto church should be set aside for him.

Now the anti-Semitic element in the German Evangelical Church last September gained the upper hand. They elected Dr. Ludwig Mueller Reich Bishop. Dr. Mueller is a notorious anti-Semite. He declared: "We must learn to view Christ after the German fashion."

"Christianity did not emerge from Judaism but grew out of wars upon it." An Aryan clause was adopted which imposed racial restrictions upon the clergy: that no one who is not of pure Aryan stock can be a clergyman in Germany.

The Protestant Church was on the way to becoming completely Aryanized and Hitler was on the way to building up a single Nazi church based upon militaristic notions, his national chauvenism and his authoritarian, dictatorial doctrines.

But here he encountered resistance, the first resistance he had encountered since getting into power. It is amazing. All other factions yielded almost without a fight to the Nazis -- the Socialists, the Communists, the Liberals. Those who boasted that they would defend the movement to the last man collapsed and disbanded the highly organized Labor movement in Germany. They had not even the courage to throw up one street barricade.

But four thousand clergymen in Germany arose and said "no" on the very Sunday when Protestant Germany commemorated the four hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Luther. These clergymen read manifestoes: "We preachers of the gospel do not want to draw upon ourselves the reproach of the prophet Isaiah that we are 'all dumb dogs' that cannot bark, sleeping, lying down, loving slumber." They sounded the alarm. "Our Evangelical church faces the day of judgment. The attacks on the cross are only beginning. A neo-Germanic heathendom has sprung up in our nation and has invaded the church

itself."

They resisted the authority of Ludwig Mueller, the tool of Hitler and they scored the first victory. The Aryan clause adopted which was to drive any minister from his post who had any Jewish blood in his veins for three generations back was suspended. Dr. Mueller, himself, realized the rising tide of opposition, and in order to save his own hide, resigned from the Nazi wing of the Protestant church. They scored another victory and forced the government to keep its hands off the philosophy and program of the church. The importance of this cannot be over-estimated. These ministers were the first to defy Hitler's theories of a race program in Germany. And in winning this first victory they have paved the way for another victory which will affect the political social and economic rights of the Jews. For if Jewish blood is not sufficient to disqualify the Jews from being spiritual leaders of Aryan Germans, it cannot ^{logically} keep them from exercising their rights as citizens and cannot disqualify them from being its intellectual and political leaders.

It was inevitable that the Christian clergymen would soon awaken to the menace of the race myth against "neo-heathendom" -- this doctrine undermining the principle of Christianity. For what is Christianity without the Bible? And what is the New Testament without the Old Testament?

It makes the whole teaching of the church impossible in the churches themselves. You cannot teach millions of people six days a week through the press, from the platform and in the schools that the Jews are an inferior race, that their blood is vicious and that they are incapable of producing any great cultural values in civilization and on the seventh day bring those same people into the churches and read to them out of the sacred literature of this despised race, teach them its moral code which is exalted as the highest code of mankind, recount to them the history of this people as the most significant spiritual history in the world, chant the hymns and prayers of this ancient people and hold up for the worship and adoration, one born of that people -- a Jew. It can't be done, even in a crazy land as Germany is today.

This racial doctrine is a repudiation of the universalism of which Christianity has boasted from its very inception. One of the most popular arguments in the mouth of Christian apologists was that Judaism always was and continues to be a nationalistic religion bound to one race and to one people while Christianity over-leaped national barriers and became universal. But here, at the hands of the Christians themselves, an effort is made to make Christianity more restrictive, as racial and nationalistic a religion as the world has ever known.

It is interesting that Jehovah is not being taught as the

Bible teaches him to be, the Father of all men, the Lord of all creation. The Nazis now teach that God is a sort of Nazi potentate whose throne has been established for all times in Wilhelmstrasse and reveals his good will to the good Aryans through his servant Hitler.

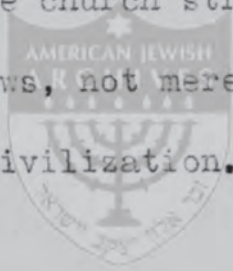
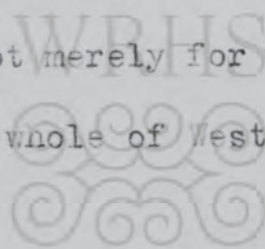
To accept the racial theories of the Nazis is to give up the entire ethical code of Christianity and Judaism; one God, one Moral Law, one humanity. To accept Nazism means to give up the Christian teachings of brotherhood and peace. It means, of course, the end of its evangelical mission. It means that Christians could never go to the Aryan church. It marks the end of Christianity as a world religion.

And so Hitler's neo-neathendom has come up against its first Verdun. A voice in Germany has spoken. It shall not pass! And strangely enough, it is not passing.

I do not wish to be pessimistic nor over-optimistic about the German situation. I do not expect that this race madness which is taking possession of the German people, particularly the German youth, and which has been going on for more than a decade and half will vanish over-night. I do not believe that a powerful enough resistance has been set up within Germany on the part of the Jews. A powerful resistance has been set up by a section of Christians and as a result of this resistance there is bound to come a modification, a clearing of the air which ultimately will restore the German people to sanity on the subject. I always suspected that

this question of national anti-Semitism will some day be settled not by what we do, but by what the non-Jews do in their defense, in defense of their own sacred ideals. They will have to destroy the vast race lie. Christianity has so much more to lose to prove its race myth than we do. All that we lose are the physical, material things. We suffer economically. We suffer materially. But Christendom will lose its soul. It will lose its spiritual values. It will lose its vision if it permits these doctrines to gain mastery over its life and its thought.

Hence, what is happening in the church struggle today is of utmost importance not merely for us Jews, not merely for the German people, but for the whole of Western civilization.



-father, the Reformation

1. Prot. Chr. celebrating 450th ann. of birth of Martin Luther, and as this occasion a serious rift has occurred in the ranks, the ~~for~~ Prot. of Germany which is of utmost significance for our people.
2. Luther's Reformation ^{more 4 cent. ago} was only of indirect significance for us Jews. There is nothing in the teachings of Prot. or in its record to show that it was never favorably inclined towards the Jew & Cathol. Germany, the birth place of Prot. has for centuries been the hot-bed of antisemitism. It was only indirectly that Prot. ^{destroyed rel. authorities} ~~benefited~~ the Jew - It divided Chr. in two. ^{in Germany, beat-down authorities} In 100 yrs. they forgot each other in the bloodiest rel. warfare known to mankind. When they measured, blood shed & learned that they could not destroy one another - they compromised. They agreed to tolerate one another. This was the beginning, the era of rel. toleration in Europe. ~~The Jew was destined~~ Prot. seeks liberation The Jew was destined to benefit from the principles of toleration which was practically imposed upon the peoples, knives by the iron hand, necessity -
3. Luther's attitude towards the Jew is well-known. It was like Mohammed's.

1523. "That Jesus Christ was Born a Jew". criticized
unequal treatment, the Jew. (Just)

1543. "Regarding Shem Hamphoras"

"Concerning the Jews and their Lies" (Just) (2)

- recommended their persecutions & their suppression
- L. congratulated Charles V on his Expulsion from Spain
- approved their expulsion from Bohemia

4. Luther was a strong determined ^{Then was an expectation and hunger in him, nothing, the devil, the power which he so freely} courageous man. But intolerant of opposition. (1) He called the greatest humanist of that age Erasmus: "the vilest miscreant that ever disgraced the earth" and "accursed wretch" and "whenever I pray, I pray for a curse upon Erasmus".
- (2) He called the Pope ^{"reprobate villain", "infernal dog", "picklock and cheat"} Antichrist & the Popes, Cardinals and bishops as "a pack of sucking, stuffing wretches, rich, wallowing in wealth and laziness, ~~rotting~~ ^{God's curse}". He described the papists = calthuses = or "for the most part were gross block-heads". ^{He had vicious sucking his hands in their blood.}
- (3) He called for "an everlasting war" upon the papists. "I wish I could breathe out lightning against pope and pope down, and that every word were a thunderbolt"

5. Luther came from peasant stock, from a crude environment. His temper was violent. His speech ^{was} hot and frequently coarse and unbridled. There was in him a good deal, that assertiveness, arrogance, crudeness and cruelty which are so frequently ^{modern} discerned in the make up, the Teuton —

(a) When the poor peasants rebelled in their misery he denounced them: "God has forbidden insurrection". "No unlawful ^{is ever right, no matter how good the cause in which interest it is} made" and advised the princes to massacre them without trial and without mercy. But when the princes rebelled against Emperors, Luther defended them & denounced their right to rebellion. He argued in favor of slavery, and proved that it was a divine institution.

"Against the Murderous and Thieving Peasant Bands" (1525)

6. Its chief contribution to Chr. thought lies in substituting for the dogma of an Infallible Church, "speaking through with divine authority through the Head on earth, the Vicar, Christ - the Pope - the organ of the Infallible Word of God as revealed in the Scripture, the Old & New Testament" — Central was in the Bible, rather than the Church!

1/ Luther denied the authority, the Pope. He denied the authority, Councils. What then is the source of authority for the Christian believer? Why the Bible! — the revealed word of God!

2/ The Bible: becomes the best rest upon which Prot. Chr. rests, in an even preponderant sense than Catholicism, or even Judaism. ^{both have a later authentication tradition} ^{both have a later authentication tradition} which while it is founded in its own binding authority, its own Prot. has no only supplementary traditions — without the Bible Prot. is merely left hanging in the air.

3/ Luther's chief aim was to establish the supreme authority of the Bible in that of Christendom. (Jude)

4/ The outstanding liter. contribution, L. was his translation of the Bible into German vernacular — to make it accessible to people

5/ The elucidation and exposition, the Bible was the chief concern, all the Chr. reformers, i.e. Melancthon; Calvin; Zwingli and many others.

6. In fact the movement known as Humanism or the New Learning, as far as Germany was concerned, ~~was~~ expressed itself largely at first in the critical study of the Scriptures, in which the study of Hebrew was an important feature —

7. ~~One~~ Knowing this in mind, one can readily understand the terrific wrench in the Prot. Ch. which a movement aimed at the elimination, the Wille, would cause.

(1) Such a movement made its appearance in form with the advent of Hitler to power. It is another expression, the neo-paganism and antisemitism which characterizes the Nazi movement. — It is opposed to the Bible because it is the work of Jews — the history of the Jews — the ethics of the Jews. It is particularly opposed to the O.T. which is Jewish, and not even Christianity. It wants to eliminate the P.T. from the Church — personality of Jesus — "Heir Jesus" — steel helmet — Valkyrie.

(2) The German very much wants to do away with Christ altogether — as a Jewish religion, and return to the Heathen pagan worship, the Early Teutons to horse.

Very thing and to the world for Evangelists, Valkyrie.

(2) Ethics of Nazis to be strengthened. over — "eliminate its Oriental, humanitarian element".

(3) On the leaders (quote)

(4) Dr. Rheinhold Krause (quote) — "the German Churches" in the National Squad.

(5) The antisemitic element in Prot. Church last left. German Evang. gained the upper hand. They elected Kr. Ludwig Mueller Reich Bishop. He is a notorious antisemite. over —

any German was adopted imperial race restrictions on the clergy — anyone whose grandfather etc — in at least one case, separate Jews were assigned

Mr. Rosenberg declared: "Christianity is the product
of a moribund civilization & weary Mediterranean."

- He is a Nazi Christian: "We must learn to
view Christ after the German fashion."

"Christianity did not emerge from Judaism but
grew out & was upon it"



in the churches to Christian-Jews.

(6) The Prot Church of Germ. was on the way of becoming
Templized - Angarized - partially paganized -
Hitler was on the way of building up a ^{Simple} Nazi Church ^{Nationalist}
^{and of creating it without help from} just as he had built up a Nazi State ^{based on by himself} dominated
by his peculiar racial theories, his militaristic
~~movements~~ his nat. chauvinism, and his
authoritarian, dictatorial desires -

8. But here he encountered resistance - this first!
amazing! suicidal etc - intellectual.

(1) 9000 Prot. clergymen - (note)

(2) They refused to take orders from Mr. Mueller.

They scored the first victory. Order rescinded!
Mueller resigned from ^{Ev. Ch. Society} First Challenge to
(3) Church to be exterminated - Goebbels et al.

Race program, Hitler,

(4) For if you allow Judeo-christ - to be 1/2
leader -

9. It was inevitable that Chr. clergy were would
soon awaken to menace of Race 1/2 Th
"to new germ. heathendom which springs in the
nation"

(1) It shocks the foundations from under Christianity
which is a germ. creation

(2) It weakens the teaching of Chr. unfathomable in the
churches - You cannot - 6 days.

(3) It is a refutation, the universal
element of Christ - (note)

(4) On, the most popular argument in world / Christ.
apologists was that whereas Jud. was & remained
a nationalistic religion, bound to one race & people,
Christianity, despite as not. And social
boundaries - and became a universal religion.

By their own acts the ~~Church~~ ~~Church~~
German Christians who making their religion
and narrow, & exclusive & racial & nationalistic
church in the world has ~~also~~ known.

→ God was not the God, all creation, the True God
all men, but a Nazi potentate who himself
was for all time established in Wilhelmstrasse;
and ~~who~~ who revealed himself through
made his will known to all good Aryans
through the prophecies, his servant Hitler as
~~revealed~~ ~~constant~~ in the new scripture: "Mein Kampf".

(5) It is a repudiation of the entire ethical
code of Christ. & Judaism: (1) Sanctity of human
life (2) peace (3) brotherhood (4) One God, One
the Lord has, on Humanity

(6) It means the end, the evangelistic, messianic
program, Christ; for it closes the entire
non-Aryan world to it; and marks the
end, Christ. & as a world-religion.

19. Hitler's neo-heathenism has finally encountered its
Verdict - It shall not pass!

"They are blood relations of the Lord; therefore, if it were proper to boast of flesh and blood, the Jews belong to Christ more than we!" ~~They~~

"We preachers of the gospel do not want to draw upon ~~us~~ ourselves the reproach, the prophet Isaiah that we are "all dumb dogs that cannot bark, sleeping, lying down, loving slumber".

They sounded the alarm:

"Our Evangelical Church faces the day of judgment. The attacks on the cross are only beginning. A neo-Germanic heathendom has sprung up in our nation and has invaded the church itself" —

"For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all"

Dr. Rosenberg - "Christianity is the product of a moribund civilization & weary Unbelief"

Müller - "We must learn to view Christ after the German fashion"

Is. 30. } "Christianity did not emerge from
#50 - 6. Judaism but grew out of it & was against it"

He reviled the Jews and their religion.

'Tis a pernicious race, oppressing all men by their usury and rapine"

"We must ever stand on our guard against them"

"They think to render homage to God by injuring the Christians, and yet we employ their physicians; 'tis a tempting of God"

"Truly, they hate us Christians as they do death: it galls them to see us".

② Prisoning wells - ritual murder

But then L. spoke as harshly and provocatively of all his opponents -



So coarse in tone - Bullinger - Swiss

Reformer declared that

② { "they must have been written by a swine head, instead of by a famous shepherd of souls"

NAZI DISCIPLES HAIL HITLER AS SECOND SAVIOR

Would Eliminate Old Testament Because Jews Were Authors.

(This is the third in a series of stories explaining the church situation in Germany.)

BY LOUIS P. LOCHNER

BERLIN—(AP)—Shall Adolph Hitler become the apostle of Christianity in Protestant Germany? And is the Bible to be cut in half and only the New Testament made available to the German Christians?

A perusal of Nazi literature demonstrates that the Hitlerite theologians are by no means agreed on what the religion of the third Reich is to be.

Pastor von Stein, speaking at a field service of Nazi peasants Oct. 1 at Quedlinburg, said:

"Germany was dying a death of hopelessness. Then God took pity. He called a savior into action. That savior's name is Adolf Hitler."

Formulates Relationship.

Church Councillor Richard Leutheusser of Saalfeld in a speech delivered Aug. 31 formulated the relationship between Jesus, Hitler, and the German Christians as follows:

"Christ has come to us through Adolf Hitler. He was the decisive personality when a whole people was ready to go under. Through Hitler's energy, his honesty, his faith and his idealism the Savior found his way to us. Every happening is of twofold nature: Internal and external. Today we feel it; the Savior has come to us."

A number of death notices are on record, in which the relatives of a deceased person asserted that the departed died "in the faith in Adolf Hitler."

Bishop Issues Statement.

On the other hand, Dr. Adalbert Faulsen, on being appointed bishop of the Lutheran church of Schleswig-Holstein, stated as a Nazi German Christian that "the gospel of Jesus Christ will continue to constitute the only foundation upon which the church rests."

And the new Reichs Bishop Ludwig Mueller, on taking office, said at Wittenberg:

"In the new, united, German Evangelical church one and one alone shall lead: Jesus Christ."

The question of whether the Old Testament, being of exclusively Jewish origin, shall continue to be recognized as a part of Holy Writ, is causing much debate in German Christian circles.

International attention was focussed upon the province of Schleswig when the Nazi governor ordered the story of Abraham sacrificing Isaac to be taken out of the school curriculum because the view there taken of God is unGerman. On the vigorous protest of various denominations, especially the Catholic, the order was rescinded on the grounds that it was not up to a secular governor to rule in matters ecclesiastical.

Cites "Folk Lore."

A more radical proposal than either of these comes from another Nazi German Christian, Herr Pichottka, divisional leader of the Nazi church movement. Speaking at Potsdam on Oct. 14, Pichottka said:

"The Jewish and the Germanic conceptions of God are sharply at variance. The Old Testament advocates a flatly utilitarian philosophy which has nothing in common with the highly moral conception of Germanism."

"Instead of the stories of the patriarchs, which, after all, are merely the folk lore of a people bent upon profit and business, the German fairy tales and sagas must be brought home to the German youth. From them deep religious thoughts may be drawn."

"Luther was unable to complete his work of freeing the Germanic spirit from the fetters of a Jewish-Roman church. It is the task of our generation to complete this great work."

"Radical" Removed.

The most radical proposals of all were those made by Dr. Reinhold Krause, leader of the Berlin German Christians, who on Nov. 13 declared the Old Testament must be eliminated altogether, the New Testament should be abridged, and Ghetto churches must be established for non-Aryan Christians. His suggestions were promptly denounced as heresies by Reichs Bishop Mueller, however, and Krause was removed from office.

The German Christian who departs this life can have his choice of a special German compartment in heaven or a valhalla, depending upon which of two interpretations of Nazi Christianity, both offered by accredited members of the Hitler party, he accepts.

Bishop Beye of Brunswick, speaking at the funeral exercises conducted under the auspices of the state of Brunswick for Albert Rose, a Nazi, promised a valhalla for members of his party:

"Valhalla" Promised.

"We who knew Albert Rose," he said, "know as National Socialists and as German Christians: There is a valhalla for the deceased of the third Reich. If there were no such valhalla, then death after years of contest would have no meaning."

Councillor Leutheusser, speaking at a convention of the Thuringian "German Christians," declared:

"Heaven in recent years was represented as a sort of Pan-Europa. Jesus, however, says, 'In my Father's house there are many mansions.' He has one for us Germans, too. . . . The German heaven is part of a big heaven in which other peoples may also have their homes." ©

BEERY CHOSEN

Gets Lead Role in Picture Portraying Life of P. T. Barnum.

HOLLYWOOD—(AP)—Wallace Beery, it was announced today by Twentieth Century Pictures, will portray the noted circus master, P. T. Barnum, on the screen.

Production of "The Great Barnum" will start sometime after Jan. 1.



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